

## Small Business Administration

## § 134.401

### § 134.309 Response to an appeal petition.

(a) *Who may respond.* Any person served with an appeal petition, or any other interested person, may serve and file a response supporting or opposing the appeal. The response should present argument.

(b) *Time limits.* Unless otherwise specified by the Judge, a respondent must serve and file a response within 10 days after service of the appeal petition upon it.

(c) *Service.* The respondent must serve its response upon the appellant and upon each of the persons identified in the certificate of service attached to the appeal petition pursuant to § 134.305.

(d) *Reply to a response.* No reply to a response will be permitted unless the Judge directs otherwise.

### § 134.310 Discovery.

Discovery will not be permitted in appeals from size determinations or SIC code designations.

### § 134.311 Oral hearings.

Oral hearings will not be held in appeals from SIC code designations, and will be held in appeals from size determinations only upon a finding by the Judge of extraordinary circumstances. If such an oral hearing is ordered, the proceeding shall be conducted in accordance with those rules of subpart B of this part as the Judge deems appropriate.

### § 134.312 Evidence.

To the extent the rules in this subpart permit the submission of evidence, the provisions of § 134.223 (a) and (b) apply.

### § 134.313 Applicability of subpart B provisions.

The following sections from subpart B of this part apply to an appeal under this subpart C: § 134.207(a) (pertaining to amendments to pleadings); § 134.208 (Representation in cases before OHA); § 134.209 (Requirement of signature); § 134.210 (Intervention); § 134.211 (Motions); § 134.214 (Subpoenas); § 134.218 (Judges); § 134.219 (Sanctions); and § 134.220 (Prohibition against *ex parte* communications).

### § 134.314 Standard of review.

The standard of review is whether the size determination or SIC code designation was based on clear error of fact or law.

### § 134.315 The record.

Where relevant, the provisions of § 134.225 (a), (b), and (c) apply. In an appeal under this subpart, the contents of the record also include the case file or solicitation submitted to OHA in accordance with § 134.306.

### § 134.316 The decision.

(a) *Contents.* Following closure of the record, the Judge will issue a decision containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, reasons for such findings and conclusions, and any relief ordered.

(b) *Finality.* The decision is the final decision of the SBA and becomes effective upon issuance.

(c) *Service.* OHA will serve a copy of all written decisions on:

- (1) Each party, or, if represented by counsel, on its counsel; and
- (2) SBA's General Counsel, or his or her designee, if SBA is not a party.

### § 134.317 Termination of jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of OHA will terminate upon the issuance of a decision.

### § 134.318 Return of the case file.

Upon termination of jurisdiction, OHA will return the case file to the transmitting Area Office. The remainder of the record will be retained by OHA.

## Subpart D—Rules of Practice for Appeals Under the 8(a) Program

SOURCE: 63 FR 35766, June 30, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

### § 134.401 Scope of the rules in this subpart D.

The rules of practice in this subpart D apply to all appeals to OHA from:

- (a) Denials of 8(a) BD program admission based solely on a negative finding(s) of social disadvantage, economic disadvantage, ownership or control pursuant to § 124.206 of this title;
- (b) Early graduation pursuant to §§ 124.302 and 124.304;

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(c) Termination pursuant to §§ 124.303 and 124.304;

(d) Denials of requests to issue a waiver pursuant to § 124.515; and

(e) Suspensions pursuant to § 124.305(a).

### **§ 134.402 Appeal petition.**

In addition to the requirements of § 134.203, an appeal petition must state, with specific reference to the determination and the record supporting such determination, the reasons why the determination is alleged to be arbitrary, capricious or contrary to law.

### **§ 134.403 Service of appeal petition.**

(a) Concurrent with its filing with OHA, a concern must also serve SBA's AA/8(a)BD and the appropriate Associate General Counsel in SBA's Office of General Counsel with a copy of the petition, including attachments.

(1) For appeals relating to denials of program admission pursuant to § 124.206 of this title, suspensions of program assistance pursuant to § 124.305, or denials of requests for waivers pursuant to § 124.515, a petitioner must serve the SBA's Associate General Counsel for General Law.

(2) For appeals relating to early graduation pursuant to §§ 124.302 and 124.304 or termination pursuant to §§ 124.303 and 124.304, a petitioner must serve the SBA's Associate General Counsel for Litigation.

(3) Service on SBA's Office of General Counsel generally or the SBA General Counsel do not meet the service requirements of this section.

(b) Service should be addressed to the AA/8(a)BD and the applicable Associate General Counsel at the Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

### **§ 134.404 Decision by Administrative Law Judge.**

Appeal proceedings brought under this subpart will be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge.

### **§ 134.405 Jurisdiction.**

(a) The Administrative Law Judge selected to preside over an appeal shall decline to accept jurisdiction over any matter if:

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(1) The appeal does not, on its face, allege facts that, if proven to be true, would warrant reversal or modification of the determination, including appeals of denials of 8(a) BD program admission based in whole or in part on grounds other than a negative finding of social disadvantage, economic disadvantage, ownership or control;

(2) The appeal is untimely filed under § 134.202 or is not otherwise filed in accordance with the requirements of this subpart or the requirements in subparts A and B of this part; or

(3) The matter has been decided or is the subject of an adjudication before a court of competent jurisdiction over such matters.

(b) Once the Administrative Law Judge accepts jurisdiction over an appeal, subsequent initiation of an adjudication of the matter by a court of competent jurisdiction will not preclude the Administrative Law Judge from rendering a final decision on the matter.

(c) Jurisdiction of the Administrative Law Judge in a suspension case is limited to the issue of whether the protection of the Government's interest requires suspension pending resolution of the termination action, unless the Administrative Law Judge has consolidated the suspension appeal with the corresponding termination appeal.

### **§ 134.406 Review of the administrative record.**

(a) Except as provided in § 134.407, any proceeding conducted under this subpart shall be decided solely on a review of the written administrative record.

(b) The Administrative Law Judge's review is limited to determining whether the Agency's determination is arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to law. As long as the Agency's determination is reasonable, the Administrative Law Judge must uphold it on appeal.

(c) The administrative record must contain all documents that are relevant to the determination on appeal before the Administrative Law Judge and upon which the SBA decision-maker relied. The administrative record, however, need not contain all